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A Comics Specialty Outlet

Innovation Set to A-MAZE Its Fans

The MAZE Agency, Mike Barr's popular play-fair mystery title originally published by Comico until the company cut back its comics line earlier this year, has already found a new home at Innovation Comics--and it's managed to keep its very popular artist Adam Hughes as it makes the move!

The MAZE Agency is the story of private detective Jennifer Mays and her close friend, crime writer Gabriel Webb; the two pool their efforts to solve complex mystery cases. Writer/creator Mike Barr carefully constructs their cases in the tradition of such fine play-fair mystery series as Ellery Queen, Dannay and Lee's sleuth who often challenged the reader to solve the mystery before he did.

The first Innovation issue, ***MAZE Agency #8,*** will reach comics shops in early October, just a few months after the final Comico issue. In the first storyline for Innovation, Barr gives Gabriel Webb more than his share of trouble as he is framed for murder during a rent-strike-turned-violent.

According to Innovation, "This new series is 'souped up' to the max--sexier, naughtier, funnier, and more exciting, as the Gabriel Webb/Jennifer Mays relationship gets established...and really heats up!"

Adam Hughes, the popular artist who is all set to take over DC's ***Justice League America,*** will remain as ***MAZE Agency***'s artist as the book moves to its new publisher. He will be joined by inker Rick Magyar, who until recently was the highly-acclaimed inker of Denys Cowan's pencils on ***The Question.***

Innovation will continue to offer the book in full color for only $1.95 per issue. ***The MAZE Agency*** will be published on a monthly schedule. Mike Barr is also working to bring a number of major comics talents to do covers for the book; one such talent is Alan Davis, who is doing a cover and an upcoming story. The Pander Brothers are also slated to do at least one story. In the November issue, ***MAZE Agency #9,*** Ellery Queen will guest-star. Later this year, Innovation has plans for a special Christmas issue, and farther down the line, there will be a ***MAZE Agency Special*** featuring several interrelated stories.

by WAYNE LEE

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COMIC SHOP NEWS™

FROM A COMICS SPECIALTY OUTLET

Dreadstar Goes For a Piece of the Rok

Double-Sized Prestige Format Planned For 50th Issue

Dreadstar has never been a guy to get caught up in trivial matters, but his exploits in the current storyline (culminating in ***Dreadstar #50***, on sale in September) are pretty big-league stuff even for him!

Dreadstar writer Peter David took Dreadstar back to his cosmic roots soon after inheriting the authorial position from Dreadstar creator Jim Starlin. In the current storyline, Dreadstar and his compatriots have taken the side of Lord Palafox against the imperial forces of Rok. Their plan? To reinstate Lord Palafox on the galaxy's throne. As you can imagine, it's a plan that Lord Palafox's usurper son isn't too keen to hear about. Every character who has appeared since ***Dreadstar #41*** will be on deck for this climactic confrontation.

Dreadstar #50, the culmination of this galactic battle royale, will follow the First tradition for 50th issues (a tradition set by ***Nexus #50*** and followed by ***Badger #50***). The book will feature 48 pages of material in prestige format, complete with a fully painted cover with a foil-embossed logo. As an added bonus, creator Jim Starlin will contribute a 50th issue portrait of Vanth Dreadstar on the opening endpaper/title page of the book.

Angel Medina, hit artist of ***Dreadstar,*** will illustrate both the interior storyline and the cover of ***Dreadstar #50.*** The interior artwork is inked by Bob Dvorak; the cover is rendered as a painting by Paul Mounts.

In addition to the Dreadstar storyline, ***Dreadstar #50*** will continue with another chapter of *Pawns* by Jim Starlin and Daina Graziunas. In this issue's installment, the battle between Chuck Shepard and Black Jack Avery escalates while the crew of the John Berkey have to defeat a security system of their own making to gain entry into the communication station they constructed.

Dreadstar #50, a special $3.95 prestige-format issue, will be available at comic shops on September 14th.

by CLIFF BIGGERS

DC Delves Into the Archives

If you have a spare $30,000 or so, you can add ***Superman #1-4*** to your comic book collection--if you can find them. These books are four of the hardest Golden Age books to locate; most fans will never have a chance even to see the books, much less to own them.

If you have a spare $39.95, you can add ***Superman #1-4*** to your permanent comics library. The single hardcover volume that collects these four ultra-rare comics in a single book will offer exact reprintings of the comics, including all advertising pages as well as editorial content. For a nickel less than forty bucks, collectors will be able to enjoy a 272-page full-color hardcover that will allow them to see these Golden Age milestones exactly as they appeared on the stands almost a half-century ago.

Superman Archives #1 will feature 264 pages of comic book content by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster, plus covers from the original books and an introduction by Steranko (whose ***History of the Comics*** was one of the first books to offers in-depth looks at the history of Golden Age comic books). The original comics will be used as coloring guides for the book to ensure accuracy (DC points out that obvious coloring mistakes will be corrected, however).

Superman Archives #1, set for release on October 26th, will be a full smyth-sewn hardcover; the book will not be reprinted as a trade paperback. DC plans to overprint sufficient quantities of the first edition of this book to keep it available for approximately six months; afterwards, they will evaluate orders and see if the book will have a second printing in late 1990.

by CLIFF BIGGERS

Eclipse Goes Arcane

Eclipse has reached an agreement with Arcane Comix to act as the distributor for the remaining copies of two Arcane Comix items. ***Arcane Comics #2: Fly In My Eye*** is a 224-page graphic album featuring horror work by **Clive Barker, John Bolton, Bill Sienkiewicz, John Bolton**, and others that was originally released earlier this year; Eclipse will handle the distribution on all the remaining copies of this book. The price will remain $9.95 for this superb anthology of Barker-written stories.

Clive Barker's Books of Blood: A Portfolio is a signed seven-plate limited edition portfolio featuring **Clive Barker**'s art for the British ***Books of Blood*** series. This $200 portfolio gives fans an all-too-rare glimpse at Barker's artwork--in fact, many Barker fans are unaware that his an illustrator as well as a writer!

As with all limited edition items of this sort, be sure to let your local comic shop know as soon as possible that you want a copy--and tell 'em that ***CSN*** sent you!

by CLIFF BIGGERS

NEWSBRIEFS

PUNISHER FACES HIS DOOM–TWICE!

The Punisher has faced some pretty tough guys in his time, but even Frank Castle may have to think twice about facing off against Dr. Doom, the Latverian monarch who's been a nemesis to virtually every Marvel hero at one time or another. If he has to think twice about facing Doom, then he may have to think four times in ***Punisher #28***, on sale October 21st; in that issue, he faces not only the real Dr. Doom, but also Kristoff, the pretender Doom as well! Don't worry, though; Doom doesn't really have anything against the Punisher. No, he just wants to kill him to prove that he's better than the Kingpin, who was unable to eliminate the Punisher in their earlier confrontation. (We can't guarantee that Frank Castle won't have a few hard feelings, though...) **Mike Baron, Bill Reinhold,** and **Mark Farmer** will bring you the play-by-play.

DARK HORSE GETS SOMETHING ON THEIR CHESTS

Dark Horse unfortunately doesn't have the license to produce ***Aliens*** or ***Predator*** t-shirts; those rights have been sold to other companies. They have, however, reached an agreement with Movie Tees Inc. to offer two ***Predator t-shirts*** to comics fans this fall. The shirts are full-color designs featuring Arnold Schwarzenneger on one shirt and the unmasked Predator on another; each t-shirt is priced at $14.95. The same designs are available on sweatshirts for $24.95, for those of you who want something more durable for fall and winter wear. Let your local comic shop know that you're interested in either (or both!) of these shirts, since supplies are limited--and let 'em know that ***CSN*** sent you!

GREEN HORNET SETS NEW RECORDS

NOW Comics' upcoming ***Green Hornet #1***, which may be available as you read this (it's set for release in early August), has set a new record for NOW. The book will have a print run of over 200,000 copies, making it NOW's biggest book ever--and quite possibly one of the biggest independent comics from any companies. The eye-catching cover to ***Green Hornet #1*** that you see here is painted by Jim Steranko; the interiors to the series will feature artwork by esteemed artist **Jeff Butler** (pencils), **David Mowry** (inks), and **Suzanne Dechnik** (painted color).

CYBER 7 CONTINUES IN SECOND BOOK

Cyber 7, the popular series by Shuho Itahashi, has done so well in its first run for Eclipse that the company will begin ***Cyber 7: Book Two*** in October. Series creator *Shuho Itahashi* has done a special cover just for this Eclipse first issue. The new Cyber 7 series will be presented in the same 32-page black and white $2 format used for the first series.

BATMAN'S LONELY PLACE GETS A LITTLE LESS LONELY...

There's been a lot of speculation about DC's upcoming Batman/New Titans crossover five-parter. Many fans have speculated that DC will introduce a new Robin in this series; naturally, DC has been very coy about just what their plans are.

In its most recent releases, DC has given a little news about the final two installments of this series. In ***New Titans #44***, Batman and Nightwing are back in action together again in a story written by **Marv Wolfman & George Perez** and illustrated by **Perez, Tom Grummett, and Bob McCleod.** That issue is set to reach comic shops on October 26th.

A week later, the story concludes in ***Batman #442.*** So will there be a new Robin? DC still isn't saying--but here's what **Bob Wayne** is saying about the book. "Batman, Nightwing, and a mysterious youngster meet Two-Face in a final confrontation. This issue features the introduction of a major new character into the Batman mythos, and features a surprise guest villain." We'll leave it up to you to interpret that.... The final installment of this storyline will be written by **Marv Wolfman** and illustrated by **Jim Aparo** and **Mike DeCarlo.**

MARVEL BISQUES IN THE GLORY OF ITS CERAMIC FIGURINES' SUCCESS

This November, Marvel's first bisque figurine, *Wolverine*, is set for release; only a very limited run of 12,500 will be produced, and no extras of this hand-painted sculpture will be available. Even before the first bisque hits the comic shops, though, Marvel is hard at work on its plans for future figurines. "Our second bisque will feature *Captain America*," **Carol Kalish** of Marvel Comics said, "and our third bisque figurine will feature *Spider-Man*. The fourth bisque may be the *Punisher*." Kalish said that Marvel was very, very pleased with the response to the Wolverine bisque. The bisques and the upcoming PVC action figures may not be Marvel's only ventures into 3-D figures, however; Kalish also said that Marvel is surveying readers and retailers to find out how strong interest might be for a series of pewter figurines of Marvel characters. The pewter figurines would be similar to the Batman figurine that DC has already announced; each would be in the 4"-5" range and would retail for approximately $24.95. Look to ***CSN*** for more about these pewter figures as soon as a decision is made.

LEGION SUBS GET THEIR OWN COMIC–AND THEIR OWN CABLE SHOW...

According to **Ty Templeton**, the upcoming ***Legion of Substitute Heroes*** book he's working on for DC definitely won't be an everyday action-adventure comic. As Templeton pointed out, the Legion of Substitute Heroes isn't a group that's in demand a lot of the time--after all, the real heroes are handling all the major problems! That's why the Legion of Substitute Heroes ends up with their own cable television show in the wacky Templeton-created Legion special that may lead to a series for the Substitute Legionnaires. "They're going to get new members, " Templeton said, "beginning with the ghost of Ferro Lad. About all he's ever done is haunt the Legion clubhouse, but I think he'll make a good Substitute Legionnaire." Templeton stressed it's not Ferro Lad who's joining the Substitute Legionnaires, but his *ghost*.

The Substitute Legionnaires will also take on a world-conquering villain who manages to take over the Earth--but no one knows about it because the President of the Earth is a little embarrassed at how feeble the planet's resistance to invasion was, so he hasn't told anyone they've been conquered. How does the Substitute Legion get involved in this? Simple, according to Templeton; the planetary conqueror gets a cable show of his own and manages to out-rate the Substitute Legion! Being second-run heroes is bad enough, but to be second-run cable stars as well?... Look for the ***Legion of Substitute Heroes*** sometime in 1990.

VIOLENCE IS GOLDEN

Mike Golden, who draws all too few comic stories nowadays, will be making one of his rare appearances in the pages of ***Marvel Fanfare #47***, on sale August 17th. This **Bill Mantlo**-written tale will star the Hulk from the days when he had Bruce Banner's intelligence; this time around he battles Spider-Man, with Nick Fury as a guest star. Marvel says that this story has been "seven years in the making and well worth the wait." Judging from the cover, it looks like they're right!

GLADSTONE GOES OUT IN A BIG WAY

CSN has already reported that October will be Gladstone's last month of Disney-comics publication–early next year, Disney will take over the publication of their own books. Gladstone has decided to go out with a bang, not a whimper, however; all their October-release comics will feature 64 pages of Disney material for $1.95. **Don Rosa** fans will find a number of great items awaiting them, beginning with a new ten-pager in ***Donald Duck #278***, along with a classic **Carl Barks** reprint. Rosa also has a new ten-page story in ***Uncle Scrooge Adventures #20.*** The Don Rosa item that may intrigue Disney fans the most, though, is the Gyro Gearloose short story that appears in the back of ***Uncle Scrooge #241***; that story was begun by Carl Barks in 1959, and is now being finished by Rosa!

Don Rosa isn't the only artist busy at Gladstone in this final month. **William Van Horn** supplies a new 39-page adventure in ***Duck Tales #12***, along with a new cover and new backup story as well. Meanwhile, **Carl Barks, Walt Kelly, Paul Murry,** and **Al Taliaferro** are all represented in reprints in the Disney titles that month.

In addition, Gladstone will offer two graphic albums in October. ***Gladstone Album #23*** will feature a Donald Duck Halloween story, "Trick or Treat," by Carl Barks--but this will be a reprinting of the complete story, not the 23-page version published by Dell. Keeping with the Halloween theme, the second story will be "Hobbin' Gobblins" from ***Donald Duck #26***, also by Barks. ***Gladstone Giant Album Special #2: Uncle Scrooge & Donald Duck*** will reprint *two* classic Barks tales: "The Sunken City," which takes Donald and Scrooge to Atlantis in search of a ten skyrillion dollar quarter; and "Luck of the North," in which Donald sends his cousin Gladstone to the North Pole--and then feels guilty and goes to save him. The 72-page ***Giant Album*** will be priced at $9.95; the standard 48-page ***Gladstone Album*** carries the usual $5.95 pricetag.

Gladstone's final Disney offering is another holiday book--but this time, the holiday is Christmas, and Gladstone's gift to Disney fans is ***Walt Disney's Christmas Parade #2***, a 96-page squarebound book featuring Donald, Scrooge, Mickey, Pluto, the Seven Dwarfs, and more in holiday-related stories. Even though the last two months of the year are slated to be Disney-less, Gladstone is determined to give Disney fans enough reading material to keep 'em busy through most of that period!

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NEWSBRIEFS

BATMAN/GRENDEL FORMAT SET

CSN was the first to tell you about the ***Batman/Grendel*** crossover story set for 1990 publication; now we can give you a little more information about the project. The crossover will be published as a two-issue 48-page-per-book prestige-format mini-series written and illustrated by **Matt Wagner**. Wagner will work with DC Comics Group Editor **Denny O'Neil** and freelance ***Grendel*** editor **Diana Schutz** on the series. "It's been a long time since the comics industry has seen *any* inter-company crossover book," Schutz said, "so I'm especially proud to be a part of this one. Matt has developed a story worthy of this kind of special publication, and I feel that the choice of Hunter Rose for the Grendel persona is most appropriate, as he and Bruce Wayne share many idiosyncrasies."

Wagner's interest in Batman predates the crossover project. "I've had a great love for this character for as long as I can remember," he said, "and since I'm sure this interest has a great effect on the formation of Grendel...this then is my optimum chance for dealing with both characters."

No firm release date has been set for the book, but DC publisher **Paul Levitz** did say that "contracts are in hand, the plot is approved by all parties, and we are proceeding with hopes of publication some time next year." As soon as this unique crossover project is scheduled, ***CSN*** will let you know.

SPEED RACER WHEELS INTO FALL SCHEDULE

NOW Comics' ***Speed Racer*** has attracted a legion of fans who have fond memories of the original Speed Racer series; unfortunately, most of them don't have an opportunity to view the episodes of the animated series itself, since they're not available in America. Thanks to **Tony Caputo**'s latest venture, NOW Video USA, fans will be able to re-live the excitement of those ***Speed Racer*** episodes in a a series of one-hour videotapes, each featuring two-part ***Speed Racer*** adventures. Each tape will feature all-new airbrush package artwork, and will carry a $19.95 pricetag. They will only be available in comic shops; you won't find them in video stores, K-Marts, or the like.

The first three tapes will include *"The Great Plan,"* the two-part origin episode that introduces Speed Racer, Trixie, Sparky, Pops, Mom, Spridle, and Chim-Chim; *"The Mammoth Car,"* a two-parter that features the only car in the world that can literally crush the competition ("Positively the most popular Speed Racer episode ever," NOW says); and *"The Fastest Car on Earth,"* a two-parter that co-stars Racer-X in the original story of the haunted GRX. Each tape will be offered in a limited run of only 10,000 copies. Three more tapes are scheduled for Christmas release.

A READING DIET HEAVY ON GREECE...

If you ever took world literature in high school or college, you may remember Greek literature and the Greek philosophical giants--but you may not remember them all that fondly. Many people find the Greeks and their Epicurianism and Stoicism and other philosophies a *little* too dry and lifeless.

William Messner-Loebs feels that there's a lot of personality hidden in the seemingly dry writings of the Greek philosophers--and he's determined to bring those personalities out in a series of semi-annual full-color graphic albums entitled ***Epicurus the Sage***. The new series is set in ancient Greece,

and much of the dialogue will consist of actual quotes from the Greek philosophers--although they'll be presented in a unique context that springs from Messner-Loebs' fertile imagination.

"The series is really funny," Piranha Press editor **Mark Nevelow** said. "People hear what it's about and they don't see a lot of humor in the concept at first, but believe me, they'll appreciate it when they read it. In this series, Messner-Loebs has all the major Greek philosophers living at the same time and interacting with each other. The whole thing offers a somewhat skewed look at history and mythology."

The book focuses on Epicurus, a real-life philosopher from fourth century BC Athens, who "was legendarily nice, offered up a tolerant philosophy, and wasn't as dumb as mud (putting him well ahead of the other Athenian philosophers)." Epicurus will be joined by his faithful sidekick Plato and his first student Alex, who will grow up to be Alexander of Macedon.

Joining Messner-Loebs on the series will be artist ***Sam Kieth***, who will fully illustrate and color the book. "Epicurus the Sage gives Sam a chance to do what Sam does best," Nevelow said. "Sam is a great detail artist, and this book gives him a chance to do some stunning background detail. At the same time, he has a great ability to do these funny, somewhat cartoony faces that are very expressive, and he gets to do a lot of that in ***Epicurus the Sage*** as well."

The first volume of ***Epicurus the Sage***, set for early November release, will tell the story of Persephone's abduction by Hades--but believe us, you've never heard the story told quite this way before. ***Epicurus the Sage*** will contain some nudity and adult language; the 48-page graphic album will be priced at $9.95.

SEE, I'M A MACEDONIAN! TO ME, THE ONLY IMPORTANT THINGS ARE WARFARE, CONQUEST, PILLAGE AND BEING AS DRUNK AS POSSIBLE IN BETWEEN!
THAT'S AN... INTERESTING LIFESTYLE
ACTUALLY, THAT'S GOLPE, THE FLOWER GIRL. YOU COULD JUST GIVE HER AN OBOL.
IT WOULD HAVE THE SAME EFFECT.
SEE THAT COMELY WENCH, YONDER?
SHE INFLAMES ME WITH PASSION!
I COULD RAISE AN ARMY, BREACH THE WALLS, PUT EVERYONE TO THE SWORD AND THEN CARRY HER OFF TO RAVISH AT MY PLEASURE!
IT DOESN'T SEEM AS WORTH WHILE, SOMEHOW, IF THERE'S NO RECOMPENSE CONNECTED TO IT.
YOU SEE, ALEX, HERE IN ATHENS--
--WE ARE ENGAGED IN A GREAT EXPERIMENT IN CIVILIZATION.
WE ARE TRYING TO BALANCE MIND AND BODY, INTELLECTUAL AND STATE!
"GREEK PHILOSOPHY: WE ARE TRYING TO FIND A WAY FOR PEOPLE TO GOVERN THEMSELVES AND FIND SOME SORT OF FULFILLMENT..."
UH, ALEX... ARE YOU LISTENING?
YOU PROPPED A COUPLE OF ROTTING SORT CARCASSES DOWN THERE HILLS. THIS CITY WOULD FALL IN A WEEK.
SORRY. I WAS JUST THINKING...

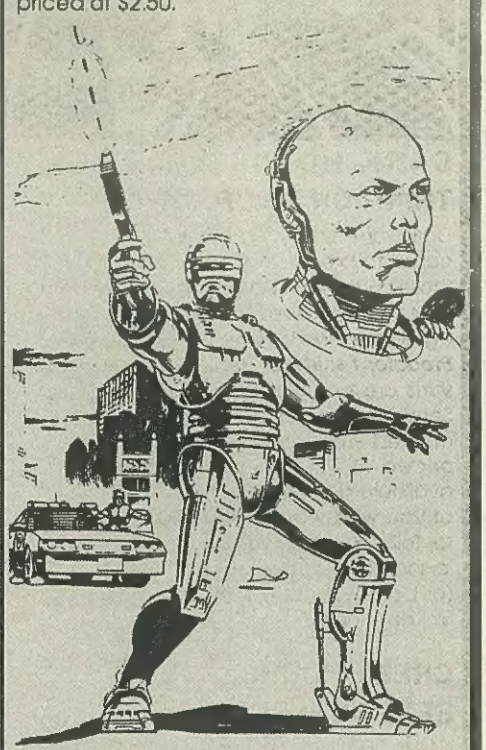
LARSEN SET AS SPIDEY ARTIST

Erik Larsen, well-known for his work on ***Doom Patrol*** and on ***The Punisher***, will become the full-time artist on Spider-Man beginning with ***Amazing Spider-Man #329***. This won't be Larsen's debut on Spider-Man, however; he's already illustrated ***Amazing Spider-Man #324***, and will also be the artist on ***Spider-Man #327*** (furthermore, if you dig way back in that Spider-Man collection, you'll find that Larsen also provided the pictures for ***Spider-Man #287***, pre-dating McFarlane!--and no, the folks here at ***CSN*** didn't remember that, but Spider-Man editor **Jim Salicrup** *did*, and he was kind enough to remind us). Larsen has a tough act to follow--he's coming on the popular title upon the departure of fan-favorite **Todd McFarlane**. McFarlane told ***CSN***, "I'm taking some time off--I've been working double-time with the bi-weekly ***Spider-Man***. In a few weeks, I'll talk to Marvel about other books, but right now I'm just thinking about a vacation." (Look for a long conversation with **Erik Larsen** in ***CSN*** very shortly in which he talks about his upcoming work on ***Spider-Man*** and gives ***CSN*** readers a sneak peek at what he's doing!)

FEMFORCE EXPLORES PRETORIOUS WRECKS?...

Femforce #21, on sale in September, will feature the return of Ms. Victory's old enemy Dr. Pretorious--and like all old enemies who return after too long an absence, he has a plan for revenge.

Rad, Colt, Nightveil, and Captain Paragon are all featured in this story written and pencilled by **Anthony Oshmago** and inked by **Bob Lewis**. The battle will be featured in a 31-page story that makes up the bulk of this 44-page comic; ***Femforce #21*** will be priced at $2.50.



ROBOCOP SET FOR COMICS DEBUT

It's been a while since ***CSN*** first reported Marvel's plan to bring ***Robocop*** to comics, but it looks like everything's set now; according to **Carol Kalish** of Marvel Comics, ***Robocop*** will make his comics debut late this year or early in 1990. "

The comic will be closer in tone to the movie than to the animated series," Kalish said, "although it won't be as violent as the film was. There will still be a lot of action in the book, though." As a sneak peek at an art sample by **Lee Sullivan** will show you, this definitely *isn't* a simply-drawn animated-feature-knockoff book. As soon as a firm release date is set, ***CSN*** will let you know about it.

CSN SPOTLIGHT

the color of TERROR!

__Beau Smith__ has been involved in the comics industry for a great many years; he currently works with both Eclipse and 4Winds. However, until this month, most of Beau's work has been behind the scenes--not the kind of work many comics fans would be aware of. That changes with the release of __The Black Terror__, a three-issue prestige-format miniseries set to begin in late August from Eclipse. Beau is the creator of the concept for the current __Black Terror__ series. He will co-write the series with good friend __Chuck Dixon__, a writer who needs very little introduction to most comics fans. Dixon is one of the busiest writers in comics today, working for Eclipse, Apple, Marvel, 4Winds, and others, working on some of the most popular books being published. Both writers took the time to talk to __Comic Shop News__ about __Black Terror__ and other projects.

How did *Black Terror* come about? I seem to recall Dean Mullaney [Eclipse's Publisher] mentioning it at about the same time *Total Eclipse* was in the planning stages, then we didn't hear about it for a while.

Beau: I've been on Dean for about two years to do it; about a year ago, it finally clicked in and we were able to get everything ready to go. I had the concept all set; we just had to turn it into a book.

Chuck: I've been on the project because I was interested in the look of the character; tough crime stories are about my favorite.

Beau: even though he *does* have a superhero costume, it's enough of a tough crime story that it's different from standard costumed hero stuff. The book looks different, too. Dan's Brereton is fully painting the series; his art adds so much mood and lighting that it really makes it work. ***The Black Terror*** went from a black and white project to a painted book due to Dan's work.

Dan has done some work before; he was signed on to do "Ransom" in ***Merchants of Death***; his pencil work was pretty run-of-the-mill. I saw his paintings, though, and I couldn't believe it was the same guy. He did a design of the Black Terror costume and sent it to me via Fred Burke; He captured everything. I called Dan up and the ball started rolling. At Wonder-Con out on the West Coast, they met Dan and saw the paintings he had done and they wanted him on the book just as much as I did.

How did the two of you--Beau and Chuck-- end up collaborating on this ***Black Terror*** three issue prestige format series?

Beau: Chuck and I have wanted to collaborate for a long time; we're constantly bouncing ideas off each other, and we had already come up with a story, "Two Hundred People To Kill," that someday we will do. This bounced off from that sort of collaborative talking; Chuck started throwing ideas my way which I fell in love with, Chuck is *really* good at setting up foundations for series, doing the spine to give strength to the concept.

Chuck: To Beau's credit, he came up with a great premise; ***The Black Terror*** is set in alternate world where Capone dynasty continues into the 1990s.

Beau came up with a premise that was a couple of pages long; he read it to me over the phone before he sent it off, and the premise was great. The premise didn't have a story to it at that point, though. We talked about it and the story grew from that. The idea of this crime dynasty continuing on and coming a step away from being a world power just grew out of the concept.

Is this set up so that there's no room for a sequel, or will we possibly see other *Black Terror* limited series in the future?

Beau: I've talked to Dean about it; if the mini-series is popular, we'll collect it into a graphic novel, and possibly a hardback, too. If it's really well-received, we'll probably do another prestige series or a graphic novel to follow it up. With the changes at Eclipse, we figure it'll be done as a graphic novel or prestige-format series, though; Eclipse is getting away from standard comics.

***The Black Terror* isn't an all-new hero, is he?**

Beau: No, the Black Terror was a Golden Age comic that was a lot like so many other Golden Age books: it was beautifully drawn at times, but the stories were pretty formula. It was a lot like ***Superman*** in that in his alter ego, he looked like Clark Kent and he was a pharmacist. There wasn't much going on in the pharmacy, so he jumped into costume. Bob Denton and Tim were the people; about all that we knew he had a sidekick named Tim.

Chuck: He had a scary name and a scary costume, but he wasn't a scary guy. That was a real waste.

Beau: Jerry Robinson and Mort Meskin did some art later on, and it looked really good at that time; ***The Black Terror*** had turned more into a detective story type thing by that time..

Chuck: It never fulfilled the promise of the costume or the name, however.

The book has a really strong cover design, sort of 1930's pulps meet *Miami Vice*. How did that come about?

Beau: Steve Vance designed the logo, and Sean Deming came up with a color design that worked really well. It was executed in modern colors. Dan works well with colors, too; thee are some office scenes of Delveccio, the Black Terror, in which Dan experimented with different colors and it came out looking fantastic.

What's the tone of the series?

Chuck: ***The Black Terror*** has the kind of action that ***Punisher*** fans are looking for. It's an unhappy guy in a world of slime; the think is that the Black Terror isn't motivated by the same things that motivate the Punisher. His motivations are different indeed.

Beau: Both Chuck and I are steady followers of ***Wiseguy*** and of ***Crime Story***, and we wanted to combine an overall feel from those two television series with the action-adventure mood of a comic book; that way, we could give the readers a very solid hard-boiled crime story.

Chuck: This book is set in a world you wouldn't want to visit. We like heroes where the hero is a hero because he isn't as *bad* as the bad guy. There just aren't many black-and-white moralities left in the world; we have to deal with shades of gray.

Beau: We *all* cut corners occasionally no matter how dedicated we are; that's true for Delveccio, the hero of

CSN SPOTLIGHT

an interview with Beau Smith & Chuck Dixon

by Cliff Biggers

the series. Here he had worked for an international affairs squad for the Mafia, and at the same time he's doing what the government wanted him to do. The government is happy, the Mafia is happy, and he's getting big bucks to do this! he's swayed by the deceit and the seduction of it all, as almost anyone would be.

"I got paid eight hundred thousand dollars for this hit; I could tell the government I was paid four hundred thousand and do alright for myself." That's the sort of dilemma Delveccio is faced with. He doesn't feel guilty with the cars, the money, the lifestyle; he's taking advantage of parts of it. He knows basically what's right and wrong, but he doesn't mind helping himself.

Chuck: His world has a lot of gray areas, and these gray areas intrude into his life. It's an environmental type of situation.

The premise of the series is what makes this work. In ***Black Terror***, Al Capone tried to go legitimate in the 30s and succeeded; he created the Capone dynasty, wiping every other crime family of f the face of the earth while looking clean as a whistle. He becomes major of Chicago, with Richard Daley as his police commissioner. His family rules Chicago and Illinois; they're still very much crime oriented, but everything is a lot more sophisticated. They use Al's tactics in the business world and the political world; when they say "corporate hit man," they have something totally different in mind than what the average person thinks of. They want to bring down the financial structure of the US and replace it with one of their own, so that they can become a world power.

It takes Delveccio a while to find out what's going on, working from the inside; his partner, Frankie Dio, is a psychopath's psychopath, so Delveccio has to keep him in check while he's investigating this plot. THe series moves around the country and has a lot of intrigue.

Beau: The bulk of **The Black Terror** takes place in Chicago, but the climax will take place around Staten Island.

Chuck: Black Terror is working for a very shadowy organization within the bowels of the government. No one, even the government, knows what their goals are, so Delvecco is walking a tightrope.

Beau: he's making a lot of hands-on judgment calls that really affecting the American system.

Chuck: he's not sure what he's doing all the time. He isn't being shown what's going on; he discovers it along with the reader at the very end. Everyone's in suspense in this series.

Both Beau and I are writing against type. We've tried to write something a little deeper here; the violence has a deeper edge to it, a lot of inner workings that make it more subtle.

Beau: Vigilante, Punisher, other books of that nature deal with the brutality of physical violence. In this book, Chuck and I try to deal with the brutality of the mind. It's not as easy. We take the reader up to the door of a violent act, but they have to open that door and let their imaginations do the rest.

Chuck: This *is* a brutal book, and a lot of stuff happens, but it's going to have a deeper effect. When we show someone getting stabbed, choked, or raped, or whatever, it'll be less concerned with the physical and more with the psychological.

Beau: It'll attract a lot of readers with its characters. They're going to be just as interested in the Black Terror whether he's in costume or not. The same way with Frankie Dio and the same with Allison Capone; Frankie is a psychopath, roughly 30 years old, but he's the type of psychopath who can deal with reality, use it and twist it to his needs. He can function in the real world very well. He comes off to the outside world as a legitimate businessman; he enjoys his work as a hitman and he's somewhat of an arsonist, thanks to Chuck--Chuck gave us the idea that Frankie was in an orphanage and didn't like it, so he burned it down and left.

Chuck: He's not a foam-at-the-mouth crazy; he's not someone you would suspect necessarily. That's what makes him so dangerous.

Beau: He's a very slick, well-dressed guy who has more fun working with a cattle prod than with a gun.

How did you handle the actual writing of *The Black Terror*? Did each of you write an issue, did you work together on everything, or what?

Beau: Chuck and I have an interesting way of co-writing; we divide it up into chapters. We get a plot and we alternate chapters. so far it's been easy and fun because we have a little competitive edge, and we also want to leave the other guy in a situation where he has to kick in the adrenaline and work at picking up at the same pace the other guy left off with.

Chuck: Beau can put an element of danger in a series so easily; I'm good at getting a lot of information across in a short amount of time. It makes for a great collaboration.

Beau: I'd still like to do "Two Hundred People to Kill," our first idea, but I don't know if we'll work together on it right away or not. We'd like to try some characters at other companies as well, but the strong point for both of us is doing our *own* characters the way we want to do them.

Chuck: the collaboration has been a lot of fun; we get along well and don't step on each other's toes.

Beau: No rivalry here, just a little healthy competition; this is a pretty good marriage of the egos--and anyone who can be married to my ego is doing okay!

We're coming out the same week ***The Hobbit*** is released by Eclipse, so we'll be overshadowed a little bit by that book. Chuck's writing that book, too. I'm really hoping that once they once get The Black Terror in their hands, though, they'll appreciate what it tries to do.

So what else are you guys working on?

Beau: I've been getting some writing offers, but I'm not committing myself to anything.

Chuck: Apple has an idea that they want to do 3-issue science fiction miniseries that can then be repackaged for book stores as graphic novels. I've done one, ***The Time-Jump War***, and I'm doing a second series called ***Invasion 55***. Leo Hernandez is the artist on this; it's set in Mexico in 1955, and it's a send-up of all the 50's invasion films with a little bit of a harder edge. It's like ***Target Earth***, that kind of thing.

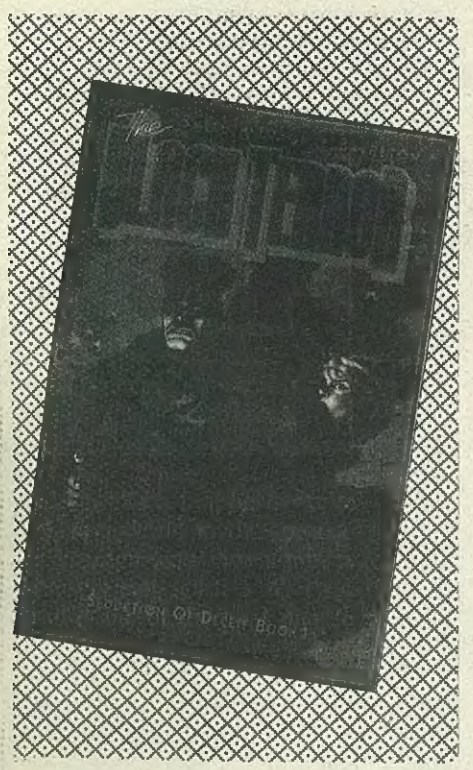
There's another book, ***Seven-Block***, by Jorge Zaffino and myself; it'll be a prestige-bound 48-page black and white book. Eclipse is doing that.

Beau: It's going to be beautiful. When I first saw ***Winter World***, the book that Chuck and Jorge did for Eclipse, I loved it in black and white; it looked better that way than it did ultimately in color! And this one is better still, because he drew this to be published in black and white.

Chuck: The lighting effects are incred-

CSN SPOTLIGHT

ible; it's an atmospheric story about genetic experimentation in a maximum security prison.



Beau: Cross ***The Prison*** with John Carpenter's ***The Thing*** and that's what you've got here; it's *scary.*

Chuck: It's my attempt to do an adult horror story without doing graphic violence. That'll be out this winter.

Jorge Zaffino and I are doing a ***Punisher*** graphic novel; this will be the fourth graphic novel. It's due out late this year or early in 1990.

I'm really happy with ***Moon Knight*** starting with issue eight; Sal Velluto and I are collaborating really closely now, and it's making the book a lot better. It takes a while to get your feet wet on a series like ***Moon Knight***, but now it's going really well. I'm introducing my own supporting characters and fleshing out the ones I inherited as well.

And as far as 4Winds is concerned--well, we're paying the bills at least. No, seriously, it's doing well for us, really. We've gotten great support from ***Comic Shop News*** and other places, and people seem to like what we're publishing.

Beau: Tim is doing ***Wilderness*** right now, and it has him really hyped up. This is the first true labor of love he's done since ***Scout;*** it looks and reads great.

His research is paying off; he came down to the *hacienda del Beau* and stayed for a day or two. I've been getting some of his research materials up to him; he's putting the effort into doing this right. Only a few other people in the world know more about Girty that he does now; even the experts are surprised by the facts he's come up with. I think it's going to do very well.

Chuck: ***Attu,*** the Master Series graphic novel that we've contracted from Sam Glanzman, is Sam's best work so far.

Beau: Dinosaurs, cave men aliens, technology, everything--it's all there in ***Attu***! Sam's having a blast. The second Masters Series release is already in the planning stages; we're talking to George Evans right now. It's a matter of seeing what he wants to do and reaching an agreement with him. We've eager. We're in contact with other people as well.

4Winds is really meticulous at planning things out beforehand. Tim and Chuck both have long-term goals; being their sales coordinator, I've seen it start from beginning and do well. They've met every goal and continued to set and meet new ones.

Chuck: We don't have to meet a schedule with 4Winds. If we don't have anything good to bring out that month, we don't bring anything out. We always agree on what we do before we do it; we're picky guys, so if we both agree that it should be published, you know that it has to be good.

Beau: 4Winds is like a family; in some ways, it's closer. This is one of the best things comics has given me; a second family I'm not related to, it's a core bunch of some of the best people in the industry.

Chuck: We sure fight like friends sometimes!

Beau: Tim is a vital part of this, he's a great personality magnet. He can draw good people his way, and that's why 4Winds has such great people working for it.

Chuck: He gets the best out of people, and that's what makes it work.

Ultraguy & JOE POWER
...WHILE GUY HAS BEEN ACQUIRING A TEEN-AGED SIDEKICK AND ENDURING MULTIPLE FLASHBACKS, WHAT HAS OUR PAL JOE POWER BEEN UP TO---?
THE NEW HOLLYWOOD SQUARES
XOX OOX XXO
JOE POWER TO BLOCK, JOHN...
TOM POSTON
DOM DELOISE
WILLARD SCOTT
JOAN COLLINS
JOE POWER
TINA TURNER
SOUPY SALES
CHARLIE WILLIAMS
WARD BATTY
JOE, YOU CONSUME 200 POUNDS OF FOOD A DAY AND CAN CRUSH A BOWLING BALL WITH YOUR FOOT...
WHAT ARE YOU?
I DUNNO...
AWAKE?
BZZZZT!
HAHA!
OOPS! THERE'S THE BUZZER--! WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT 'TIL TOMORROW TO FIND OUT JOE'S ANSWER!
BYE BYE!
AFTER THE SHOW--
JOE! JOE!
HUNH?
HI, "GUYS"!
HOW'RE Y-HEY! WAITAMINUTE!
WHEN DID HE LEARN TO FLY?
IX-NAY ON THE I-FLAY!
C'M'ERE A SECOND!
GUY TELLS JOE ALL ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENED---
WHAT? NO FLASHBACK HERE--?
NOT THIS TIME. THANK YOU.
SEE, JOE--HE THINKS HE HAS SUPERPOWERS, AND THEN HE HAS THEM! HOW CAN IT BE?
THIS IS VERY STRANGE...
ARE YOU SURE THIS WAS BECAUSE OF THE SUPER-HYPNOTISM? MAYBE IT WAS SOMETHING ELSE...
ICK
DID YOU TWO SHARE A PIECE OF GUM, OR ANYTHING?
©1989 WARD BATTY
ART: Charlie Williams

TOTAL DEVASTATION of Balkan villages...
...NO BODIES have been found
The JUSTICE LEAGUE are in pitched battle- but WHO or WHAT are they fighting?!
"Uhh...guys... I think we have a situation here."
JUSTICE LEAGUE AMERICA
Giffen/DeMatteis · Hughes · Rubinstein
A four-part bi-weekly crossover beginning in August. The non-stop adventure begins in JUSTICE LEAGUE AMERICA #31!
JUSTICE LEAGUE Europe
Giffen/DeMatteis · Sears · Marcos

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CSN QUICKLIST

The upcoming comics quicklist is a listing of scheduled titles and the dates that they should arrive in comics shops across the country. That doesn't mean that the books will always be in your shop on the date listed: some publishers ship from different parts of the country, and the farther away the publisher is from your local comic shop, the longer it will take the books to get to you.

Each entry presents the title and number of the book, followed by the release date; if a title doesn't have a scheduled release date, we don't give you a date. After that is the Publisher of the comic and the price. This quicklist presents the titles that are supposed to ship during the rest of August. A complete checklist of titles due in September will appear in ***CSN 114.***

- ❑***Adventures of Superman 459*** 8/31 DC .75
- ❑***Alien Legion 13*** 8/24 Marvel $1.50
- ❑***Aliens II 2*** Dark Horse $2.25
- ❑***American Color Special 1*** Dark Horse $2.95
- ❑***Animal Man 16*** 8/31 DC $1.50
- ❑***Appleseed: Book Three 1*** 8/24 Eclipse $2.95
- ❑***Aquaman 5*** 8/31 DC $1
- ❑***Archie 3000 5*** 8/24 Archie .95
- ❑***Archie's RC Racers 3*** 8/31 Archie .95
- ❑***Archie's Story & game Digest 13*** 8/24 Archie $1.50
- ❑***Armor 8*** Continuity $2
- ❑***Astonish! 2*** Wehner $2
- ❑***Bad Company 12*** Quality $1.50
- ❑***Batman 440*** 8/31 DC $1
- ❑***Batman Button Set 3*** 8/24 DC $8
- ❑***Batman Special Edition TPB*** Comics Interview $9.95
- ❑***Bayou Billy 2*** 8/24 Archie .95
- ❑***Beach Party 1*** Eternity $2.50
- ❑***Big Black Kiss 2*** Vortex $3.75
- ❑***Black Phantom 1*** AC $2.50
- ❑***Black Terror 1*** 8/24 Eclipse $3.95
- ❑***Blackhawk 8*** 8/31 DC $1.50
- ❑***Captain Power 4*** Continuity $2
- ❑***Cases of Sherlock Holmes TPB*** Northstar $8.95
- ❑***Cat & Mouse 4*** EF Graphics $1.75
- ❑***Cerebus 125*** Aardvark-Vanaheim $2
- ❑***Cerebus Bi-Weekly 20*** Aardvark-Vanaheim $1.25
- ❑***Charlie Chan 6*** Eternity $2.25
- ❑***Checkmate! 21*** 8/31 DC $1.50
- ❑***Cheval Noir 2*** Dark Horse $3.50
- ❑***Classic X-Men 40*** 8/31 Marvel $1.25
- ❑***Cloak & Dagger 8*** 8/24 Marvel $1.50

- ❑***Comic Relief 4*** Page One $2.50
- ❑***Comics Revue 37*** Comics Interview $3.95
- ❑***Conan Saga 31*** 8/24 Marvel $2.25
- ❑***Continuum 1*** Continuum $1.50
- ❑***Cosmic Heroes 9*** Eternity $1.95
- ❑***Dark Assassin Vol 2 2*** Greater Mercury $2
- ❑***Dark Horse Presents 34*** Dark Horse $1.75
- ❑***Death's Head 10*** 8/24 Marvel $1.75
- ❑***Denizens of Deep City 5*** Kitchen Sink $2
- ❑***Detective 27 T-shirt*** Graphitti $12.95
- ❑***Detective 606*** 8/24 DC $1
- ❑***Dick Tracy Weekly 101*** Blackthorne $2
- ❑***Doctor Strange 10*** 8/31 Marvel $1.50
- ❑***Donald Duck Adventures 18*** 8/31 Gladstone .95
- ❑***Doom Patrol 27*** 8/31 DC $1.50
- ❑***Dragonforce Chronicles 5*** Aircel $2.95
- ❑***Dragonlance 12*** 8/24 DC $1.50
- ❑***El Diablo 3*** 8/24 DC $1.50
- ❑***ETC 4*** 8/31 Piranha $4.50
- ❑***Everything's Archie 146*** 8/24 Archie .95
- ❑***Eyes of Mongombo 1*** Fantagraphics $2
- ❑***Fantastic Four 333*** 8/24 Marvel $1
- ❑***Faust 5*** Northstar $2.25
- ❑***Forgotten Realms 2*** 8/24 DC $1.50
- ❑***Futurama 3*** Slave Labor $1.95
- ❑***Green Hornet 2*** 8/31 NOW $1.75
- ❑***Grey GN 1*** 8/24 Viz $16.95
- ❑***Griffin 5*** Slave Labor $1.95
- ❑***Gun Fury 8*** Aircel $1.95
- ❑***Hawk & Dove 5*** 8/24 DC $1
- ❑***Hellblazer 23*** 8/24 DC $1.50
- ❑***Hobbit 1*** 8/24 Eclipse $4.95
- ❑***Hot Shots 1*** Caliber $1.95
- ❑***Iron Man 249*** 8/31 Marvel $1
- ❑***Jake Thrash 1*** Aircel $3.95
- ❑***James Bond Book 3*** Titan $11.50
- ❑***Jeremy Brood GN*** Fantagor $11.95
- ❑***Judge Dredd 35*** Quality $1.50
- ❑***Legendlore GN*** Caliber $8.95
- ❑***LEGION '89 9*** 8/31 DC $1.50
- ❑***Legion X-2 Vol 2 1*** Greater Mercury $2
- ❑***Li'l Abner Vol 6*** Kitchen Sink $16.95
- ❑***Little Archie Digest 39*** 8/24 Archie $1.50
- ❑***Love & Rockets TPB 8*** Fantagraphics $12.95
- ❑***Macbeth*** Slave Labor $2.95
- ❑***Marvel Comics Presents 35*** 8/24 Marvel $1.25
- ❑***Marvel Masterworks Volume 8: The Hulk*** 8/31 Marvel $24.95
- ❑***Mayhem 4*** Dark Horse $2.50
- ❑***Mickey & Donald 16*** 8/24 Gladstone $1.50
- ❑***Mister Miracle 9*** 8/24 DC $1
- ❑***Moon Knight 7*** 8/31 Marvel $1.50
- ❑***Mr. X 5*** Vortex $2
- ❑***Ms. Tree 50*** Renegade $2.75
- ❑***Nam 37*** 8/31 Marvel $1.50
- ❑***New Humans 15*** Eternity $1.95
- ❑***New Titans 59*** 8/24 DC $1.75
- ❑***Ninja High School GN*** Eternity $9.95
- ❑***Pirate Corp$ 2*** Slave Labor $1.95
- ❑***Power of the Atom 17*** 8/31 DC $1
- ❑***Predator 2*** Dark Horse $2.25
- ❑***Punisher Classics 1*** 8/31 Marvel $4.95
- ❑***Punisher War Journal 11*** 8/31 Marvel $1.50
- ❑***Ranxerox Book 2*** Catalan $10.95
- ❑***Real Ghostbusters 16*** 8/31 NOW $1.75
- ❑***Robotech II: Malcontent Uprisings 1*** Eternity $1.95
- ❑***Rust 10*** 8/31 NOW $1.75
- ❑***Sable 22*** 8/24 First $1.95
- ❑***Sandman 10*** 8/31 DC $1.50
- ❑***Scimidar Vol 2 3*** Eternity $2.25
- ❑***Screenplay 2*** Slave Labor $1.95
- ❑***Secret Origins 45*** 8/24 DC $1.50

- ❑***Shadowland 2*** Fantagraphics $2.25
- ❑***Shattered Earth 9*** Eternity $1.95
- ❑***She-Hulk 8*** Marvel $1.50
- ❑***Silverstorm 2*** EF Graphics $1.95
- ❑***Sinner 5*** Fantagraphics $2.95
- ❑***Spectacular Spider-Man 157*** 8/31 Marvel $1
- ❑***Speed Racer 27*** 8/31 NOW $1.75
- ❑***Spirit 58*** Kitchen Sink $2
- ❑***Star Trek 1*** 8/24 DC $1.50
- ❑***Star Trek: Next Generation 1*** 8/31 DC $1.50
- ❑***Starman 15*** 8/31 DC $1
- ❑***Suuperman 36*** 8/24 DC .75
- ❑***Swamp Thing 89*** 8/31 DC $1.50
- ❑***Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 6*** 8/31 Archie $1
- ❑***Terminator 15*** 8/31 NOW $1.75
- ❑***Thor 410*** 8/24 Marvel $1
- ❑***Tick 6*** New England Comics $2.25
- ❑***Tommy & the Monsters 1*** New $1.95
- ❑***Transformers 59*** 8/24 Marvel $1
- ❑***Trollords: Death & Kisses 2*** Apple $2.25
- ❑***Trouble With Girls GN 2*** Eternity $7.95
- ❑***Uncle Scrooge 240*** 8/31 Gladstone .95
- ❑***Usagi Yojimbo 18*** Fantagraphics $2
- ❑***Varcel's Vixens GN*** Caliber $8.95
- ❑***Vortex 15*** Vortex $2
- ❑***Warlocks 10*** Aircel $1.95
- ❑***Werewolf at Large 2*** Eternity $2.25
- ❑***X-Factor 37*** 8/24 Marvel $1
- ❑***Young All-Stars 30*** 8/17 DC $1.75
- ❑***Zot! 30*** 8/31 Eclipse $2

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Have you seen anything in this issue of ***Comic Shop News*** that you can't live without? Make sure you don't miss it; clip this handy coupon and write down the things that you want you comics shop owner to be sure to get for you!

Name_____

Address _____

_____

Phone _____

I gotta have 'em! Please reserve for me the following items mentioned in ***Comic Shop News!***

_____

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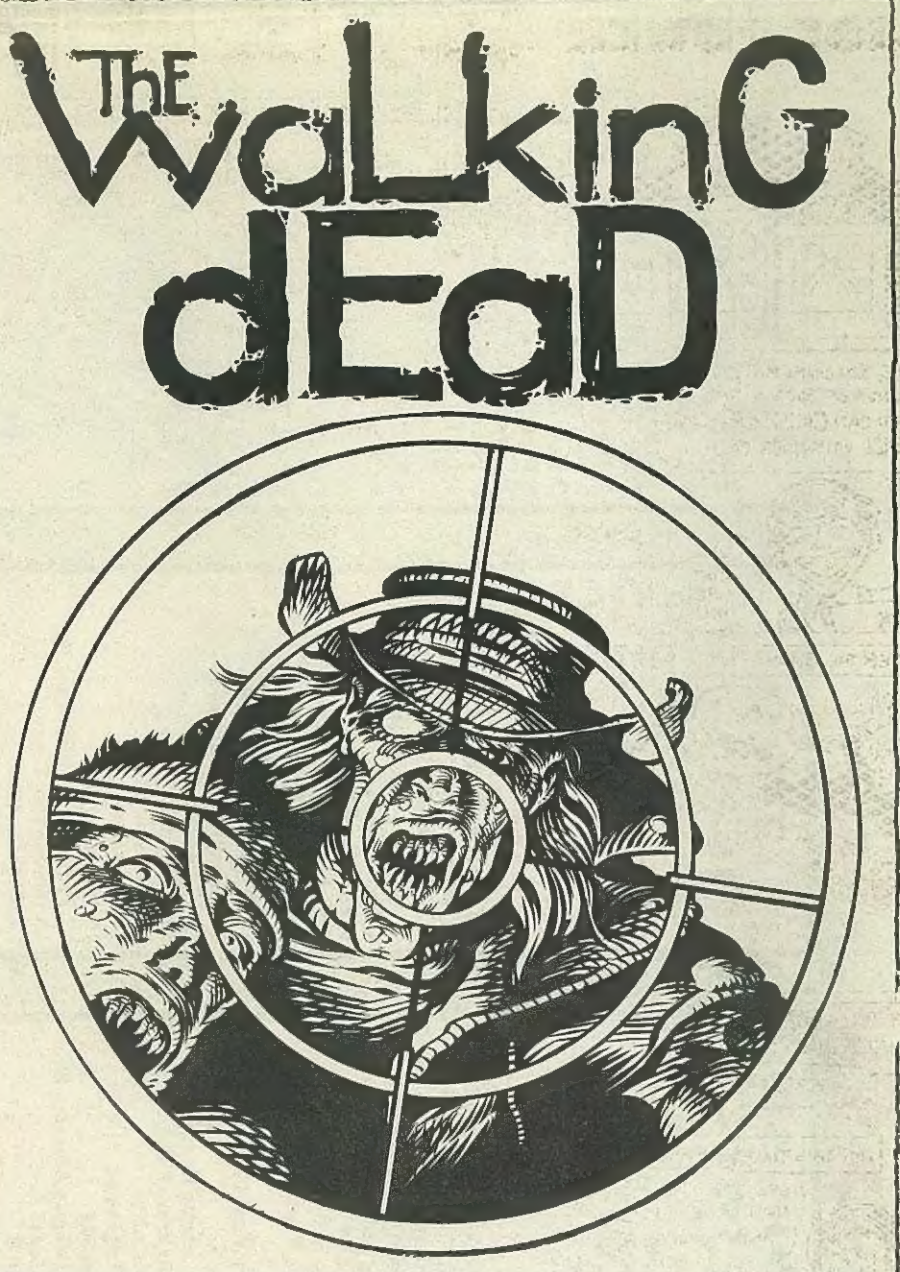
Be sure to give this to your retailer. **Do not send it to *CSN!*** Your comics shop will make every effort to get the items you want; some items may require a down payment before your shop owner can get them for you; be sure to ask!



COMING IN SEPTEMBER • AIRCEL

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CSN CHARTS

TOP 50 COMICS

1. Batman 438
2. Batman 439
3. Detective 604
4. Detective 605
5. X-Men 252
6. X-Men 251
7. Excalibur 14
8. X-Factor 46
9. Detective Comics Annual 2
10. Wolverine 15
11. Wolverine 16
12. Amazing Spider-Man 323
13. Amazing Spider-Man 324
14. Punisher 25
15. Punisher War Journal 10
16. Avengers West Coast Annual 4
17. Avengers West Coast 50
18. Predator 1
19. Justice League Europe 6
20. Fantastic Four Annual 22
21. Thor Annual 14
22. Secret Origins 44
23. Avengers 309
24. Justice League America 30
25. New Mutants 81
26. She-Hulk 7
27. Iron Man 248
28. Web of Spider-Man 56
29. Daredevil 272
30. SHIELD 3
31. Spectacular Spider-Man 156
32. Marvel Universe Update 5
33. What If? 5
34. Silver Surfer 29
35. Captain America 361
36. Captain America 362
37. Fantastic Four 332
38. Moon Knight 6
39. Incredible Hulk 361
40. Thor 409
41. Classic X-Men 39
42. Hawkworld 2
43. Action Comics 645
44. Marvel Comics Presents 32
45. Marvel Comics Presents 33
46. Superman 35
47. Quasar 2
48. Green Arrow 23
49. Green Arrow 24
50. Adventures of Superman 458

CSN's Top Seller charts are based on figures supplied by the two major distributors, Diamond Distributors and Capital City Distribution, as well as figures supplied by a cross-section of comics specialty shops. The distributor's figures represent retailer orders placed on the titles, while the information obtained from stores represents books sold.

TOP DOLLAR COMICS

The following comics, graphic novels and trade paperbacks were given Top Dollar ratings based on the dollar volume of the books sold (or expected to sell) during late July and August sales period.

1. Detective Comics Annual 2
2. Batman 438
3. Batman 439
4. Avengers West Coast Annual 4
5. Hawkworld 2
6. Excalibur 14
7. Wolverine 15
8. Wolverine 16
9. Fantastic Four Annual 22
10. Detective Comics 604
11. Detective Comics 605
12. X-Men 252
13. X-Men 251
14. Predator 1
15. Thor Annual 14
16. Punisher 25
17. Punisher War Journal 10
18. Justice Inc. 1
19. X-factor 46
20. Aliens 6
21. Secret Origins 44
22. Amazing Spider-Man 323
23. Amazing Spider-Man 324
24. She-Hulk 7
25. Marvel Universe Update 5
26. SHIELD 3
27. Avengers West Coast 50
28. New Titans 58
29. Justice League Europe 6
30. Moon Knight 6
31. What If? 5
32. Avengers 309
33. New Mutants 81
34. Rocketeer Adventure Magazine 2
35. Wonder Woman Annual 2
36. Justice League America 30
37. Classic X-Men 39
38. Captain Marvel Special 1
39. Iron Man 248
40. Web of Spider-Man 56
41. Daredevil 272
42. Alpha Flight 76
43. Marvel Comics Presents 32
44. Marvel Comics Presents 33
45. Spectacular Spider-man 156
46. Captain America 361
47. Captain America 362
48. Silver Surfer 29
49. Green Arrow 23
50. Green Arrow 24

TOP 10 BLACK & WHITE COMICS

1. Aliens 6
2. Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 21
3. Nightmare on Elm Street 1
4. Lone Wolf & Cub 27
5. Punisher Magazine 2
6. Lum 3
7. Fist of the North Star 4
8. Mayhem 2
9. Baker Street 2
10. Robin Hood 1

TOP TEN NON-COMICS

1. Punisher: Return to Big Nothing HC
2. Batman Movie Cards Collector's Set
3. Dr. Strange/Dr. Doom Hardcover
4. Greatest Joker Stories TPB
5. New Adventures of Batman PB
6. Greatest Batman Stories TPB
7. Monstrous Compendium
8. Art of Walt Simonson TPB
9. Batman 1990 Calendar
10. Fantastic Four TPB

The Top Ten Non-Comics is based on the number and not dollar value. This category includes graphic novels, hardcovers, trade paperbacks, portfolios, etc. It includes books that actually were on sale during the August sales period.